

Workshop Notification

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The National Park Service and the U.S. Geological Survey invite you to attend a

Workshop on Mapping of Benthic Habitat in National Parks

Dates: June 3-5, 2008

Location: DOI University, Lakewood, Colorado

Background: The NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program has recently allocated funds to initiate a benthic habitat mapping program in ocean and coastal parks. These benthic habitat maps and their associated reports will be provided to National Park unit managers in a consistent Service-wide format to help park managers resolve issues related to the management and protection of the 3 million acres of submerged National Park System natural and cultural resources.

Purpose of Workshop: This workshop will serve as a key step in designing the benthic habitat mapping program. Workshop participants will identify park, network, and regional needs for maps that show attributes related to bathymetry, bottom type, geology, and biology. Participants from NPS and from other Federal and non-federal entities that have been involved with marine and freshwater benthic habitat mapping will discuss their experiences. While we won't be using this workshop to make an exhaustive survey of data acquisition technologies, we will highlight some of the most promising technologies being used. We will address existing sources of data that can be used for these maps, and the partnerships that can help to leverage resources. Workshop products will include recommended classification schemes and management approaches that could be adopted for consistent application during a long-term NPS benthic habitat mapping effort covering a wide range of benthic environments.

Target Audience: People from within and outside NPS who are involved in marine or freshwater benthic habitat mapping, or who will be involved in developing or implementing the NPS benthic habitat mapping protocol.

Agenda and Registration: See the workshop website:
<http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/USGS/index.cfm>

Note: A limited amount of travel assistance funding may be available for those who would otherwise not be able to attend.

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